

the Bullhorn!

The official newsletter of the America's Boating Club - Richmond, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons

Volume 62, Issue 4

April 2023

The Bridge

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Squadron Dinner Meeting

April 11, 1800 (6:00 PM)
Anna's Restaurant, Mechanicsville

Upcoming Classes

Marine Navigation Course - April 13 - Zoom
Trailer Seminar - May 21 - Osbourne Ldng
Boat Virginia Course - May 27 - Olverson's

Shakedown Get-together

Tide's Inn, Irvington
May 12 - Boat Arrival
Luncheon May 13, 11:30

July 4th Cruise

July 3 to 9
Portsmouth - Hampton Yorktown



America's Boating Club-Richmond Membership Meeting!!

11 April 2023

Anna's Restaurant, Mechanicsville!



Please join us for another wonderful dinner meeting—a short business discussion followed by a great social time! The meeting program will include a discussion of upcoming boating and social activities for the summer season.

The meeting will be held at 1800 (6 pm) at Anna's Restaurant located at 7009 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-7100.

Order from the Menu. Average dinner cost is \$20-\$25. Anna's offers gluten-free entrees on their regular menu if desired.

You do not need to eat to attend the meeting.



Please RSVP to Susan Timpano at susan.timpano@earthlink.net if you plan to attend and eat.

Commander's Message

Commander:

Cdr Frank Timpano, SN-CN
Ftimpano@infinonline.net
804-240-8591

It is a pleasure and honor to be picking up the reins again and serving the Richmond Sail and Power Squadron, re-imagined as America's Boating Club-Richmond. I want to thank the rest of the Bridge and Executive Committee for taking on their roles in supporting the Club's operations. It's heartwarming and encouraging to have such a dedicated and supportive team, all on board with a common mission to provide a fun and rewarding membership experience for all of us!

Our focus this year will be on re-invigorating the Club's activities and encouraging members to join in the fun! We have some ideas on improving the connection we have with each other and hope to foster a more cohesive community of boating enthusiasts by sharing common interests, creating a unique identity and celebrating our love of the water.

It's Spring and with this season of renewed growth, we bid adieu to the restrictions of the past couple years and look forward to a full calendar of fun events and fellowship opportunities. We have a jam-packed calendar this year with something for everyone!

We've re-instated regular membership meetings at a series of local restaurants. (Food and fellowship go together, don't they?) We hope that many of the club's members will find time to join us and stay connected with their fellow members.

The Boating Activities calendar is full this year, as well! We continue to collaborate with Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron (NNSPS) on various events and we expect them to join us on a few of our cruises this Summer. Many of the boating activities are suited to attendance by car or boat, so non-boating members are encouraged to join the fun. We hope you will join us! See Susie Timpano's Administrative Department update for all the details.

Educational events abound as well! Check out the Education Department's schedule for learning opportunities and sign up to refresh your knowledge or learn something new! Bill Simpson covers all the details in his report this month.

It's a new year, a new season, a new day. The sun's shining, there's a warm breeze, and the flowers are everywhere. It is Spring and it is time to shed the pandemic-induced cocoon and join your Club's members for some fun activities! Hope to see you there!

Frank

Boat Trailering Seminar

Safely and Securely Trailer Your Boat

How to Maintain and Use Your Boat Trailer



When: Sunday, May 21st 2023

10 AM to 12 PM and 2 PM to 4 PM
(2 Sessions)

Where: Osborne Landing
Boat Ramp (Parking Lot)
9530 Osborne Turnpike,
Richmond, Virginia 23231

Cost: Free and Open to the
Public

Contact: Jim Juritsch
mauijim04@gmail.com

Topics:

- **Titling, Registration, Insurance**
- **Choosing Your Tow Vehicle**
- **Hitches**
- **Choosing and Equipping Your Trailer**
- **Launching and Retrieving**
- **Maintenance**

Education

Educational Officer

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Ahoy Fellow Members,

The Cruising and Cruise Planning Course has been completed and our thirteen (13) students have taken their exams and are awaiting the results. A big thanks to Frank Timpano, the primary instructor, for presenting the majority of the class and Jim Zeigler for presenting the weather portion of the course.

Marine Navigation Course is the new initial navigation course that replaces Piloting. Jim Zeigler will be the instructor and the course will be a virtual Zoom presentation beginning on Thursday April 13th and ending on June 1st, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Cost \$100. Registration is underway and the deadline is April 10th. If you would like to participate, contact Bill Simpson at bcsimpson1@aol.com.

Trailer Your Boat is a seminar on how to safely and securely trailer your boat and how to maintain and use your

boat trailer. Two sessions are planned for Sunday, May 21st at the Osborne Landing parking lot - 10 AM to noon and 2 PM to 4 PM. This seminar is free and open to the public. Please see the flyer in this newsletter. Jim Juritsch and Dave Childress will be the presenters.

Spread the word – share the information on these courses with your boating friends and at your marinas.

Member Input for Educational Classes. We are always open to suggestions for future educational classes whether it be a full course or a short seminar. Is there something in your boating experience that you would like to know more about? Tell us what you want and we will try to provide the educational support you need. You never know, there may be a lot more boaters with the same issues. Contacts are Bill Simpson, SEO bcsimpson1@aol.com or Jim Juritsch, ASEO mauijim04@gmail.com.

Administrative Officer

Lt/C Susan Timpano

Susan.timpano@earthlink.net

804-512-1298

Administrative Officer

Welcome all to a new year of boating fun! We have lots of activities planned for the year beginning with a Squadron membership meeting at Anna's Restaurant in Mechanicsville on April 11. The dinner meeting begins at 6 PM and will feature a short film on the status of the Chesapeake Bay.

Up next is our Shakedown Cruise to the Tides Inn May 12- 14. This is an activity that you can drive or cruise to and will involve a luncheon that Saturday at The Tides' famous Chesapeake Restaurant. Be sure to make your slip reservations with the dockmaster if you plan to cruise there and stay overnight. Lunch reservations are already underway, but we do need to know the number of folks who will be eating so please RSVP to me if you plan to come. We will order from the menu.

We are planning a big rendezvous/party at the Urbanna Harbor Town Dock June 9-11. You can drive or cruise to this event, too! Dinner will be a potluck with a catered main course

(probably fried chicken).

The June membership meeting will be held on June 13 at the Anna's Restaurant at 11027 Hull Street Rd (near Genito Road) in Midlothian.

On July 2-8 we will have our Fourth of July Cruise that will include visits to Portsmouth, Hampton, and Yorktown. Plans are still underway for this rendezvous, which should include a wonderful fireworks display at Portsmouth.

Several more activities are planned for the rest of the year, and we will keep you informed on these as the dates near. Each issue of The Bullhorn will provide more details of upcoming events.

USPS Dues increase \$5.00/year starting of April 1.

Our annual dues are comprised of local, district and national dues. The national portion of our dues will increase \$5.00 per year starting with those who are billed in April due to inflation and increased insurance premiums. Most of us are billed on the anniversary month of our joining; the dues increase will be effective upon our next annual dues notice.

In the Evening Sky

Since January 1, Venus has been prominent in the western sky at sunset. First Saturn then Jupiter have slowly descended each evening towards brighter Venus. Saturn appeared to descend over the horizon in February. Jupiter and Venus appeared side-by-side on March 1. Each night, Jupiter will continue to appear closer to the horizon and eventually will not longer be visible at sunset. Meantime, Mars is directly overhead just after sunset.

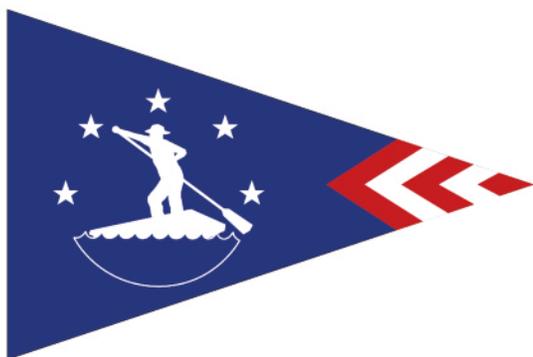
April 6 – Full - Pink Moon

April 13 - First Quarter (waxing)

April 20 - New Moon

April 27 - Third Quarter (waning)

May 5 - Full - Flower Moon

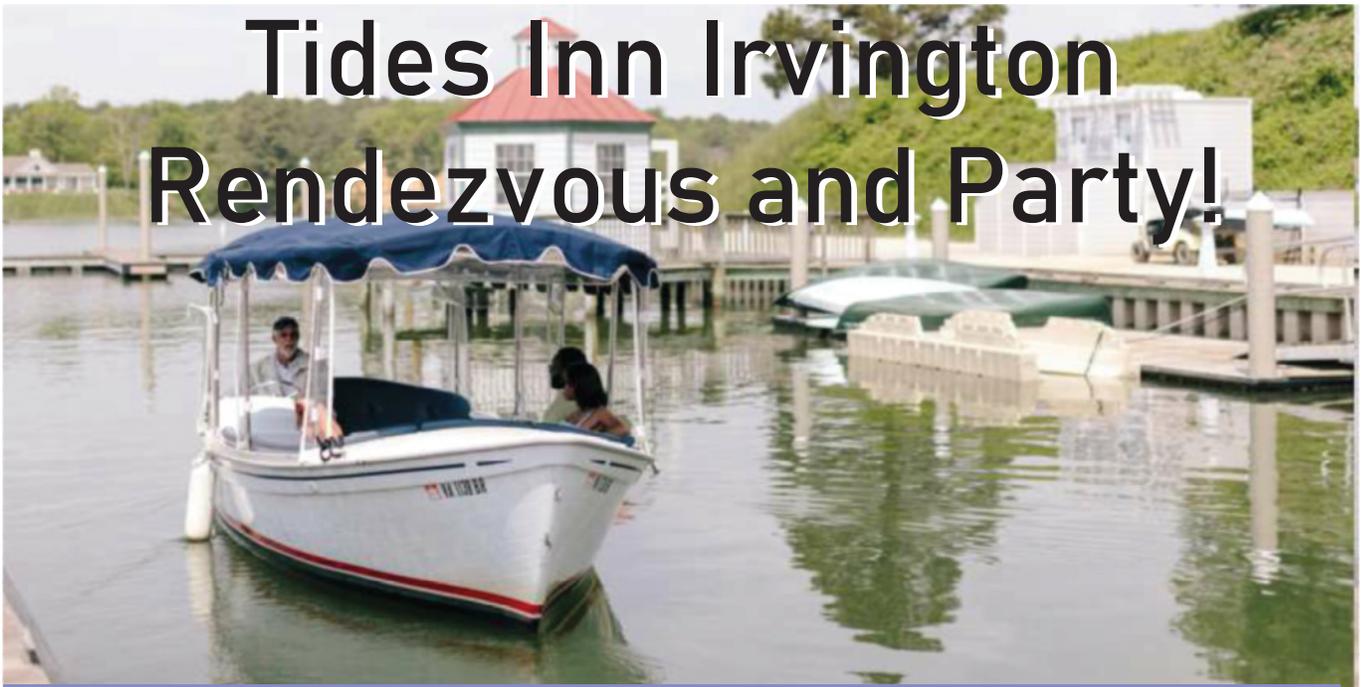


LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS

Milford Haven Inlet - State Route 223 (Gwynn's Island Bridge) - Due to severe delays in the fabrication of the mechanical elements of the bridge's swing span, the drawbridge will have restricted openings on signal for vessel traffic at 2 a.m., 5 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., daily, from April 15, 2023, through October 12, 2023. Vessels able to pass through the drawbridge in the closed position may do so at any time. The vertical clearance of the drawbridge in the closed-to-navigation position is 12 feet above mean high water. The drawbridge will be able to open for emergency vessels. Mariners should adjust their transits accordingly and use extreme caution when transiting the area.

PIANKATANK RIVER – OYSTER REEF REHABILITATION PROJECT Mariners are advised that beginning January 2, 2023, until August 5, 2023, seaward marine will be conducting rock placing operations for the oyster reef rehabilitation project at the mouth of the Piankatank River. All mariners are requested to stay clear of the crane barge, material barge and mooring. All operators should be aware that the mooring is held in place by a single cable attached to an anchor. All fishnets, crab pots, and structures in the area are requested to be removed prior to commencement of any work. Mariners are requested to exercise extreme caution when approaching the rock placing operation and proceed at no wake speed. Seaward marine will be monitoring VHF channel 16.

Tides Inn Irvington Rendezvous and Party!



Let's Start
Boating!!
Come Join Us!

**13 May 2023
By Boat or By Car!**

Our first boating event of the season will kick off Friday 12 May, 2023 at The Tides Inn in Irvington, VA. Come join us by boat for a quick "Shakedown Cruise."

You can come into the marina by boat on Friday or Saturday morning, as you please. Or, you can just drive over! Your choice!

The Main Event will be a group luncheon at 1130 on 13 May (Saturday) at the Tide's Chesapeake Restaurant. Order off the menu and pay individually.

Please RSVP to Susan Timpano at susan.timpano@earthlink.net by 1 May 2023.

Skippers make your own slip reservations with the Tides Inn Marina at (804) 4384418.



LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS (Cont'd)

Major construction will continue through the 2023 boating season around the HENRY NICE- US 301 BRIDGE (Potomac River at Dahlgren, the HAMPTON ROADS BRIDGE TUNNEL and the CHESPEAKE BAY BRIDGE TUNNEL

LAKE ANNA - RUMPUS IN BUMPASS

TRIATHLON 2023 – The Bumpass Triathlon 2023 on Lake Anna, VA, will begin on April 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. Mariners are requested to use caution when transiting the area.

DEPTH SURVEYS – POTOMAC, RAPPAHANNOCK, YORK AND JAMES RIVERS –

eTrac, Inc. is conducting depth surveys in the Rappahannock, York, Potomac and James Rivers from 1 March 2023 through 1 July 2023. They will be using seven different vessels ranging from 22 to 44 ft under contract to the Office of Coast Survey. The purpose is to update the nautical charts. All survey vessels will be equipped with sensitive sonar and are restricted in maneuverability. Mariners are requested to give wide berth and not pass in front of the survey vessels.

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER FROM

TAPPAHANNOCK TO PORT ROYALS - On or about March 20, 2023 the Coast Guard will start making changes to the navigational aids numbered 32 to 68, between Tappahannock and Port Royal on the Rappahannock River. Those changes are detailed in the Local Notice to Mariners.

RELIANCE ON AIDS TO NAVIGATION

On a recent cruise, the ship's captain made a point to state that they do not rely on floating Aids to Navigation when guiding the ship. They rely upon radar, fixed landmarks and aids, inertial guidance systems and satellites. Here is the warning that appears in each edition of the USCG Local Notice to Mariners:

“The aids to navigation depicted on charts comprise a system of fixed and floating aids with varying degrees of reliability. Therefore, prudent mariners will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly a floating aid. With respect to buoys, the buoy symbol is used to indicate the approximate position of the buoy body and the sinker, which secures the buoy to the seabed. The approximate position is used because of practical limitations in positioning and maintaining buoys and their sinkers in precise geographical locations. These limitations include, but are not limited to, inherent imprecision's in position fixing methods, prevailing atmospheric and sea conditions, the slope of and the material making up the seabed, the fact that buoys are moored to sinkers by varying lengths of chain, and the fact that buoy body and/or sinker positions are not under continuous surveillance but are normally checked only during periodic maintenance visits which often occur more than a year apart. The position of the buoy body can be expected to shift inside and outside the charting symbol due to the forces of nature. The mariner is also cautioned that buoys are



Membership Meeting!!

**13 June, 2023 at Anna's Restaurant,
Midlothian!**



America's Boating Club-Richmond

Please join us for another wonderful dinner meeting. The meeting program will include a short business meeting to update members on squadron operations, educational opportunities, and finances, as well as a review of upcoming social activities.

The meeting will be held at 1800 (6 pm) at Anna's Restaurant Midlothian, located at 11027 Hull Street Rd, Midlothian, VA 23112.

Order from the menu. Average dinner cost is \$15-\$23. Anna's offers naked wings and salads that are gluten-free if desired.

You do not need to eat to attend the meeting.



Please RSVP to Susan Timpano by June 1 at susan.timpano@earthlink.net if you plan to attend and eat.

RELIANCE ON ATONs (Cont'd)

liable to be carried away, shifted, capsized, sunk, etc. Lighted buoys may be extinguished or sound signals may not function as the result of ice, running ice or other natural causes, collisions, or other accidents. For the foregoing reasons, a prudent mariner must not rely completely upon the position or operation of floating aids to navigation, but will also utilize bearings from fixed objects and aids to navigation."

Boating Season is Here! - Spring Boat Preparations Tips – from the ASEO Jim Juritsch

According to the National Safe Boating Campaign, April is 'Boat Preparedness Month'. Spring is a great time to inspect your boat, trailer, equipment, and paperwork. Here are some tips to get you ready.

Registration, Insurance, Trailer Inspection, and Fishing licenses

This is time to check your expiration dates for your boat registration, marine insurance and fishing license(s), and renew as required.

Does your boat trailer have an inspection requirement? This is an annual requirement – put a reminder in your calendar when it's due.

It's also a great time to have a Vessel Safety Check performed, to have another set of eyes looking at your boat and alerting you to potential safety issues.

Engine

Perform a visual inspection of your engine, looking for leaks, hose quality, and fluid levels.

For outboards, check the water output relief hole to make sure it is unobstructed. Mud daubers like to plug the relief hole – I had a moment at the boat ramp when the engine was running but no water stream, which can be stressful. A small piece of mechanics wire is good to keep in your onboard toolbox in such instances.

While you're at it, inspect the bilge if you have one. Look for anything unusual.

Electronics

Check to see if your electronic charts can be and need to be updated. Most manufacturers of chart plotters have proprietary charts and release updates regularly. Procedures to update them are usually done via a SD card or over Wi-Fi connections. Check your manual.

(more....)

SPRING PREP (cont'd)

If you haven't obtained a MMSI number and coded it into your VHF DSC-enabled radio, now is good time to do it. You'll hope you never have to use it, but it's handy to let passengers know, if things go sideways, hit the red button and help will be on the way.

Polish & Wax

When cleaning your boat inside and out, you tend to notice issues which may need attention (e.g., loose fittings, fiberglass damage, etc.). Deal with them before they become troublesome during the season.

The new lines of ceramic wax coatings are incredibly durable, long lasting and inexpensive. They can be found in most auto parts stores.

A waxed boat is much easier to clean after trips, typically only requiring a light scrub and hose off.

Trailer

Visually inspect your tires. Any bulges, uneven tread wear or cracking all indicate that it's likely time to replace them. Also, check the date codes on the tires – every tire has them, and it's usually a 4 digit code on the sidewall (digits 1-2 is the week manufactured, and digits 3-4 is the year). Replacing them every 3-5 years is recommended.

Check the air pressure. A good rule of thumb is to keep trailer tires at their max inflated pressure. Anything lower will allow the sidewalls to potentially heat up on hot days, and possibly burst (ask me how I know!)

Tire pressure monitoring systems are now becoming more affordable, and they allow you to monitor your tire pressure via an app and tire valve sensors.

Keep a spare tire and make sure you have the tools to change a tire on the side of the road.

If you find yourself on the side of the highway with a boat trailer problem, do you know who to call? Often times your marine and/or auto insurance will provide roadside coverage. Check your policy.

Anchor

Take your anchor out of its locker (or wherever stored) and lay it out. Let it dry if it is wet, as those anchor lockers can stay wet. Run the anchor line through your hand to see if you note any damage, and replace as necessary.

Check the shackle at the chain and make sure it's tight. Make sure your anchor locker drain holes are clear.

Take time now to inspect your boat and trailer to have a safe and enjoyable boating season!

Marine Navigation

IT IS FINALLY HERE!!

Our legacy Piloting Course has been replaced with Marine Navigation, oriented to navigation with chartplotters.

The course will be offered for 8 weeks, starting **Thursday, April 13** and each Thursday evening thru June 1 from 7:00 to 9:00. The course will be taught on Zoom.

Marine Navigation is the first of the America's Boating Club navigational classes focusing on techniques for piloting a boat in coastal and inland conditions. The course emphasizes planning and checking along with the use of chartplotters for determining position, and introduces digital charting along with traditional charting, compass and dead reckoning skills.

Plotting, use of the compass, aids to navigation, electronic tools and a host of related topics are included in this all-new approach to coastal, inland and river piloting. Students will require a computer and network access to view Zoom classes and download course materials.

The course introduces students to both electronic charting software and manual chart plotting.

Cost will be \$100 which includes access to the electronic textbook, plotter, divider and supplemental materials to download the free plotting software.

Contact Bill Simpson at bcsimpson1@aol.com to sign up.

50 YEAR MEMBER



Pictured is Walter W. Scott, AP with his 50 Year Membership Certificate. We want to thank Walter for his ongoing support to USPS and the Richmond squadron.

2023 HURRICANE SEASON – EARLY PREDICTION

Tropical Storm Risk, which is an international meteorology analysis and consulting company, has forecast a 2023 Atlantic hurricane season with three intense hurricanes, 6 moderate hurricanes and 13 tropical storms. This closely matches the 30-year average.

“TSR’s forecast for below-norm activity is due to the warm-neutral or weak El Nino conditions expected through summer 2023. The current La Niña conditions have peaked and are expected to weaken to neutral conditions through Spring 2023 and transition to borderline El Nino conditions through summer, which favors enhanced trade wind strength, reduced vorticity and higher vertical wind shear over the tropical North Atlantic and Caribbean Sea where hurricanes form. “

“Despite the expectation for a below-norm hurricane season in 2023, large uncertainties remain. These include the forecast strength of El Niño Southern Oscillation, the strength and sign of the North Atlantic Oscillation through Spring, and how warm the tropical Atlantic will be in August-September.

Also, variance exists in the level of hurricane activity possible from the same climate factors. “

At this stage there are no guarantees and we’ve regularly seen early seasonal hurricane forecasts busted by far higher, or lower, activity levels.

Hurricane Names 2023

Arlene	Bret	Cindy	Don
Emily	Franklin	Gert	Harold
Idalia	Jose	Katia	Lee
Margot	Nigel	Ophelia	Philippe
Rina	Sean	Tammy	Vince
Whitney			

None of these names have been used previously.





July 4th Fireworks in Portsmouth!

Here's a chance for a fun cruise to ports close to home in early July! What better way to beat the warm temps than getting out on the water and joining your fellow ABC members on a short cruise to a couple neat destinations?

See the itinerary below for details. Make your own marina reservations, noting that you are with the America's Boating Club-Richmond (aka Richmond Sail and Power Squadron) group.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Marina</u>	<u>Marina Contact</u>
Mon, Tues	7/3-4	Portsmouth, Tidewater Yacht	Dockwa.com
Wed, Thurs	7/5-6	Hampton, Safe Harbor Bluewater	Dockwa.com
Fri, Sat	7/7-8	Riverwalk Landing	757-890-3370
Sunday	7/9	Return to Home Port	



Please contact the cruise leader (Frank Timpano) via email (ftimpano@infionline.net) or 804-240-8591 if you are interested or have questions. For those that have not been on an ABC/Squadron cruise before, it is a relaxed, friendly time. Boats that run at similar speeds often "buddy up" for safety and make the runs between ports together. Again, that is optional and you are free to do as you please. Each skipper makes his/her own marina reservations well in advance

to be assured of a slip. The marinas have already been notified to expect individual boat reservations and will try to place us together on the docks.



**Portsmouth
Hampton
Yorktown
3-8 July 2023**

2023/2024 America's Boating Club-Richmond Schedule

Date		Event	Location
Start	Time		
11-Apr	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting	Anna's - Mechanicsville (Hanover)
13-Apr	1845	Marine Navigation Course	Zoom
12-May		Shakedown Cruise	Tides Inn
16-May	1900	ExCom	Zoom
21-May	900	Trailing/VSC event	Osbourne Landing
27-May	0800-1700	Boat/Virginia	Olverson's Marina
9-Jun		Rendezvous	Urbanna Harbor (Town Dock or Urby's)
13-Jun	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting	Anna's - Hull Street at Genito (Chesterfield)
2-Jul		Fourth Of July Cruise	Portsmouth, Hampton and/or Yorktown
29-Jul	1200	Lunch Party at Olversons	Olverson's Marina
8-Aug	1900	Excom	Timpano's Ashland
11-Aug		Weekend cruise to onancock	Onancock harbor
12-Sep	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting	West End Richmond - TBA
7-Oct	1200	Eastern Branch Bash	Timpano's in Weems
10-Oct	1900	Excom	Timpano's Ashland
7-Nov	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting	Anna's - Mechanicsville (Hanover)
8-Dec	1900	Excom	Zoom
9-Dec	1100	Christmas Luncheon	Westwood Club
12-Jan	1900	Excom	Zoom



America's Boating Club is a nation-wide boating organization. We learn together, boat together, and help each other and other boaters on the water and land. Our Members learn boating skills, engage with boating friends, and connect with the boating community.



For more information, visit our website at:

richmondboatclub.com

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